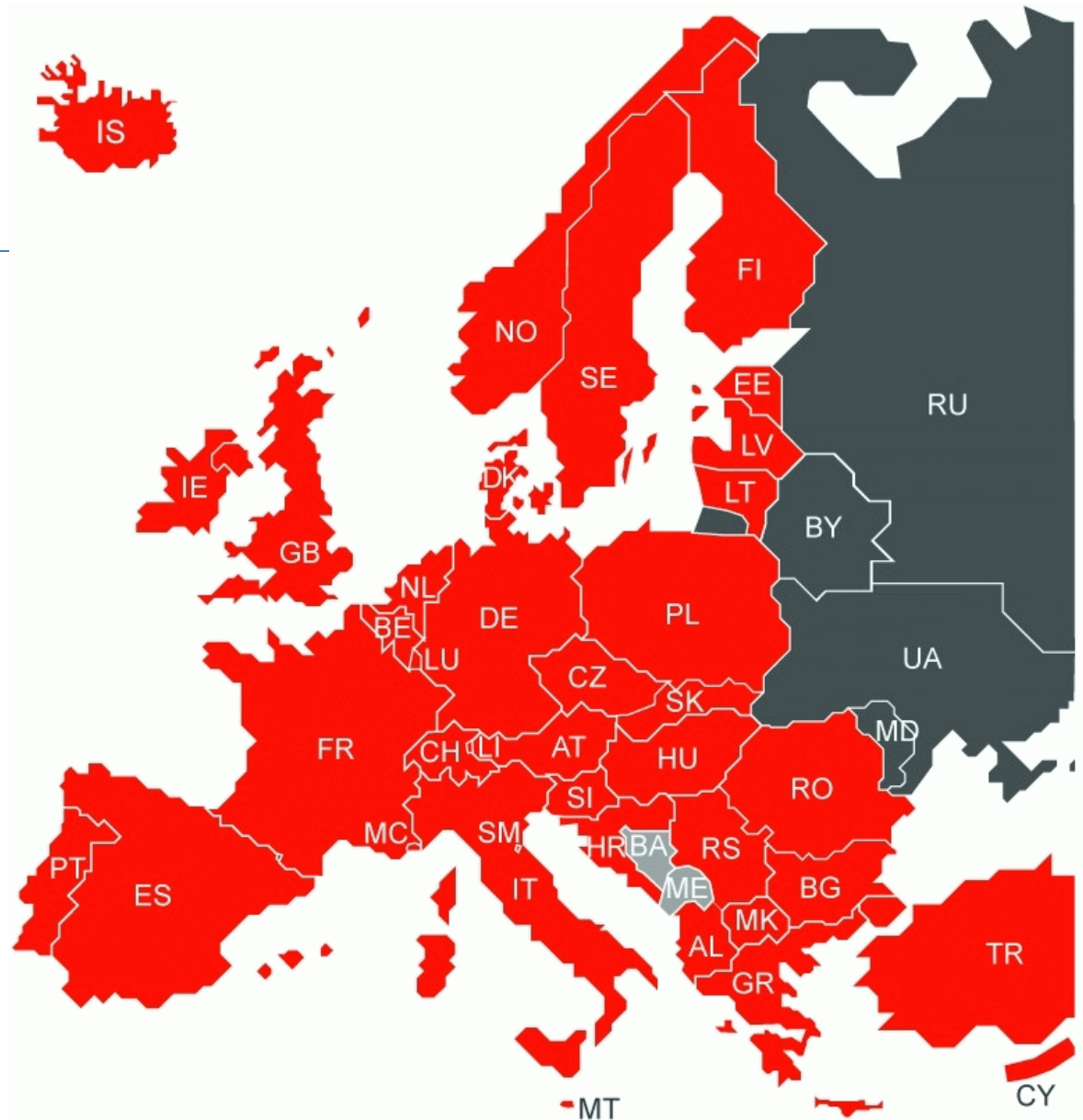


epi – the organisation of European Patent Attorneys

Tony Tangena
epi President



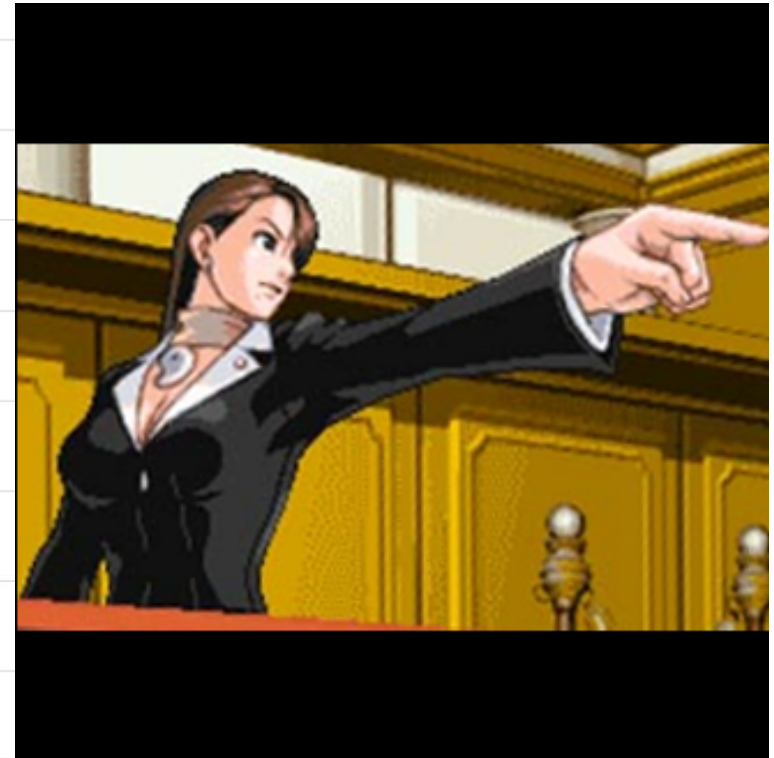
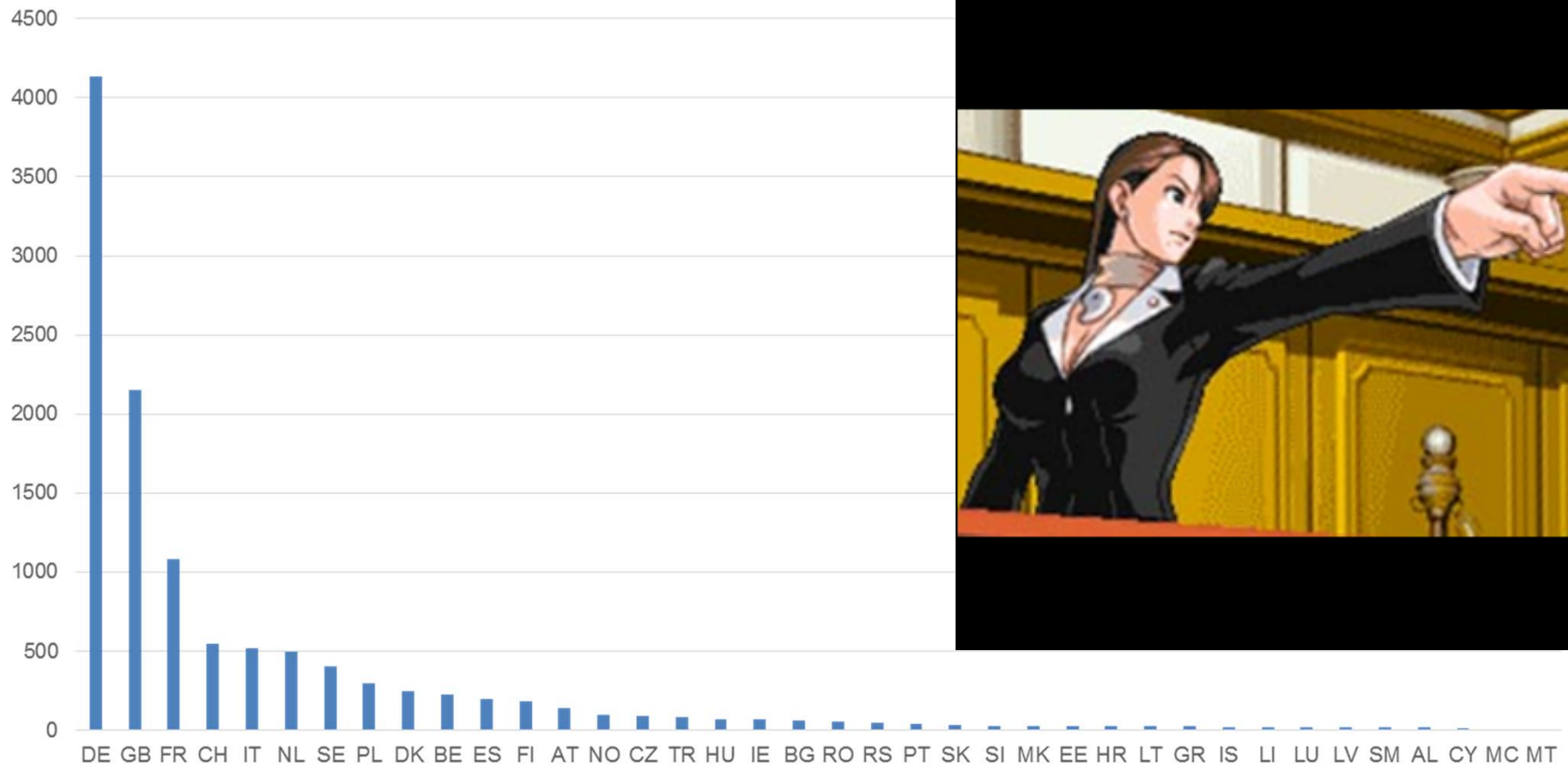
European bundle patent: one procedure leads to national patents

Two types of patent attorney

- **20%: ‘Grandfathers’ or ‘grandmothers’:** national examination or test, qualification automatically granted when country accedes European Patent Convention
- **80%: EQE qualified:** qualified through the European Qualification Examination:
 - 3 year study
 - 4 exams: passing rate <50%
- 11,550 European Patent Attorneys
 - they are obliged to be member of epi



Number of EU Patent attorneys 2009



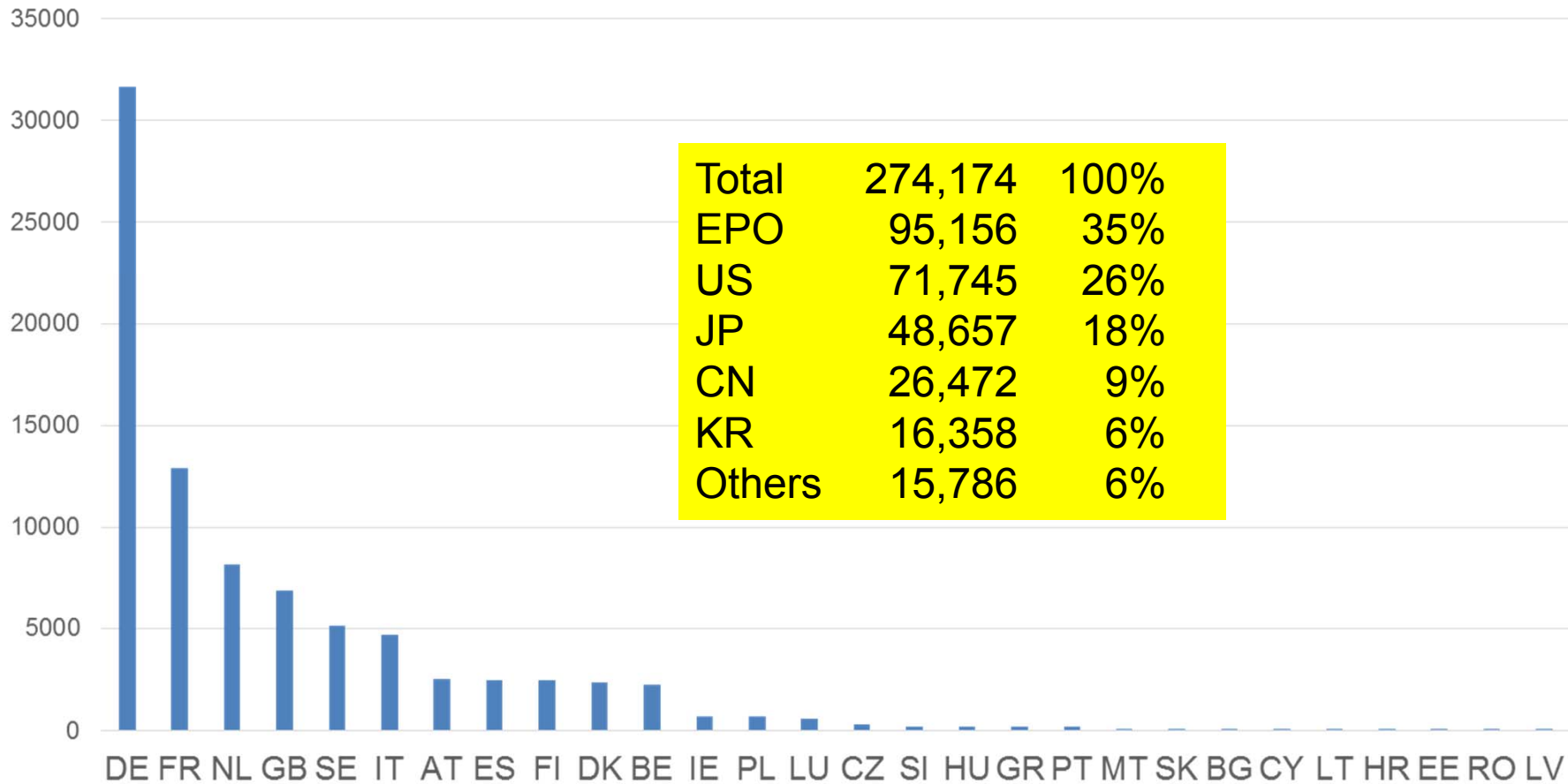
Number differs largely; votes only slightly depend on numbers of attorneys



- **Presidium:** President (NL), 2 VP (DE, RO), 1 Treasurer (CH) + 1 Deputy (EE), 1 Secretary General (PT) + 1 Deputy (FI)
- **Board:** 1 member per country, 2 for UK, DE, FR, CH. **From 2017 Presidium plus some chairs**
- **Council:** 2-6 members / country: 140 members
- **(Sub)Committees:** 14 (76) 4 – 65 members
- **Secretariat:** 11 persons in Munich



Number of EP applications 2014 by national applicants



Large difference in filing numbers over member states



Challenges



- Population of patent attorneys differs largely over Europe
 - Many countries have few well-trained patent attorneys
 - Candidate support program together with EPO
 - Provide more training for EPAs



- Organisation is 35 years old
 - Modernize: How can we offer more to our members?
 - Reform: Board, Council, transparency, better representation, modern communication tools, fora etc.